

JANURARY

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2024



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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The Magic Lantern Calendar – January 2024

Events

Jan 5 and 6, 2024, **Magic Lantern Show**, **Lanternist Lindsay Lambert** presents a magic lantern show. Canada Science & Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, ON K1G 5A3 Canada.

Jan. 19-23, 2024, **Shadow Puppet Magic Workshop**, create shadow puppets theatre inspired by the Lanterna Magica, Orange Regional Museum, 151 Byng Street, Orange, New South Wales, 2800, Australia.

Jan. 20, 2024, **Annual General Meeting 2024**, The Magic Lantern Society, The Musical Museum, 399 High Street, Brentford, London, TW8 0DU, UK.

Apr. 8, 2024, **Once-In-A-Century Experience: Solar Spectacle**, including magic lantern show, Genesee Country Village & Museum, 1410 Flint Hill Road, Mumford, New York 14511.

Apr. 26, 2024, **Magic Lantern Keynote**, presented by members of the NW Group, Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Port Townsend Victorian Festival, Port Townsend WA 98368 USA.

June 15-16, 2024, **A Summer Excursion to the Netherlands**, special meeting of the Magic Lantern Society (UK), Den Haag, Netherlands.

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The Magic Lantern Calendar – January 2024

Exhibits

Ongoing, **The Path to Cinema: Highlights from the Richard Balzer Collection**, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles CA USA. 9,000 magic lantern objects collected by former MLS president Richard Balzer. <https://www.academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/path-to-cinema>

Online

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom.
Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.

About Restoration of Mirroscope

From Loren Shultz

0591eojl@gmail.com

Just acquired my first Mirroscope.

I'm thinking of some level of restoration. Rewiring is an obvious need but I have two questions please .

1. The "mirrors" are damaged. Will they work to any extent as-is or is re-silvering needed for any degree of function?
2. If mirrors okay, any idea light bulb wattage?

Thank you

Loren
Shultz

From David Evans

Hello Lauren

Thank you for contacting us.

Obviously resilvering them will increase the amount of light reaching the image, but worth trying before you do that. You might consider replacing the lamps with modern LED lamps with built-in reflectors, as they will produce more light and virtually no heat and you may

not need the mirrors at all. Bear in mind that, whatever you do, you won't get a very bright image on the screen. These were meant for projecting postcard size images, and were meant to be quite close to the screen, so not a very big image will be projected.



If you do try household-type lamps, if filament type, it would be best not to exceed about 40 Watts each, though you probably can't buy these in stores any more. You could try the LED replacements, but probably won't do the job very well.

Let us know how you get on.

David Evans



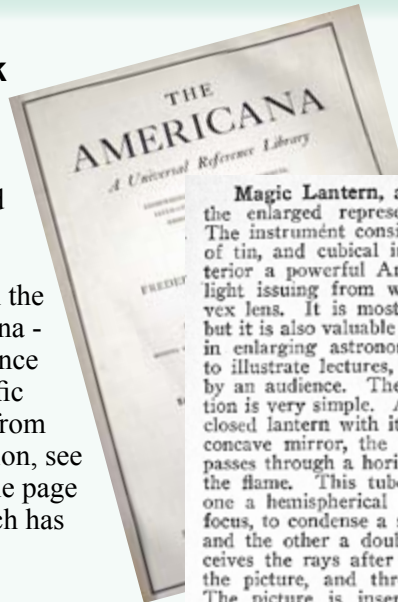
What's in a Name?

From Karl Link *Society President*

Larry,
Please find attached two pictures. One shows the entry for "Magic Lantern" in the book: *The Americana - A Universal Reference Library* (by Scientific American); this is from the 1909-1910 edition, see other picture for title page of volume XII which has the ML reference.

I also was thinking of maybe starting a little series of ML definitions, found among all the different dictionaries and reference books across the centuries. Including perhaps quotes from books, like literature and such.

The idea is to publish one of these definitions or quotes about the ML in each epub. My hope is that sooner or later other members will join and send in their findings or quotes. Over time we should have a good number of published definitions and quotes concerning the ML, which will give us a nice overview of how the ML was described (or perceived in the case of quotes) over time in all these publications.



Magic Lantern, an optical instrument for the enlarged representation of small figures. The instrument consists of a lantern, generally of tin, and cubical in form, having in the interior a powerful Argand lamp, the pencils of light issuing from which pass through a convex lens. It is most commonly used as a toy, but it is also valuable for the purposes of science in enlarging astronomical and other diagrams to illustrate lectures, so that they may be seen by an audience. The principle of its construction is very simple. A lamp is placed within the closed lantern with its burner in the focus of a concave mirror, the reflected light from which passes through a horizontal tube on a level with the flame. This tube contains two lenses, the one a hemispherical illuminating lens, of short focus, to condense a strong light on the picture, and the other a double convex lens, which receives the rays after they have passed through the picture, and throws them on the screen. The picture is inserted through a transverse slit into the tube between the lenses. That the representation may appear erect the picture must be inserted into the tube in an inverted position. The screen must not be too far removed from the lantern, otherwise the image will become indistinct and distorted. The tube is made to pull out, so that the distance of the lens from the slider being capable of being increased or diminished, an image of any moderate size, larger or smaller, may be formed, by increasing or diminishing the distance between the lantern and the screen.

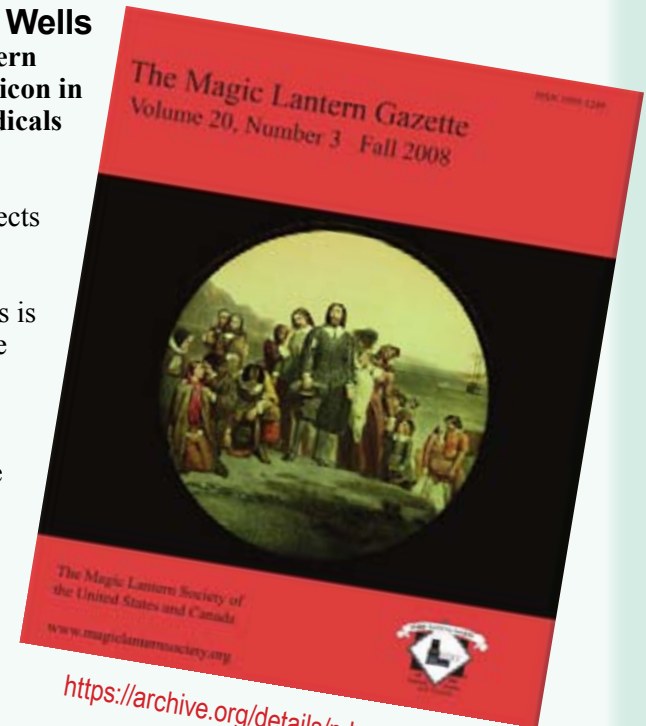
for lanterns to emphasize some novel feature of their products. The confusion caused by this proliferation of names is nicely captured in the 1873 passage quoted above. This article examines the use of language about magic lanterns in American periodicals in the second half of the 19 century. Although there are many terms that refer to magic lanterns in the periodical literature, including "lantern slides," "dissolving views," and others, I will focus on the two most commonly used terms, "magic

Starting with two of our members previous research of the names for Magic Lantern

From Kentwood D. Wells The Magic Lantern and the Stereopticon in American Periodicals 1860-1900

Anyone who collects magic lanterns or does research on lanterns and slides is soon struck by the enormous variety of names used to describe these instruments in the 19th century.

Different manufacturers coined all sorts of new names

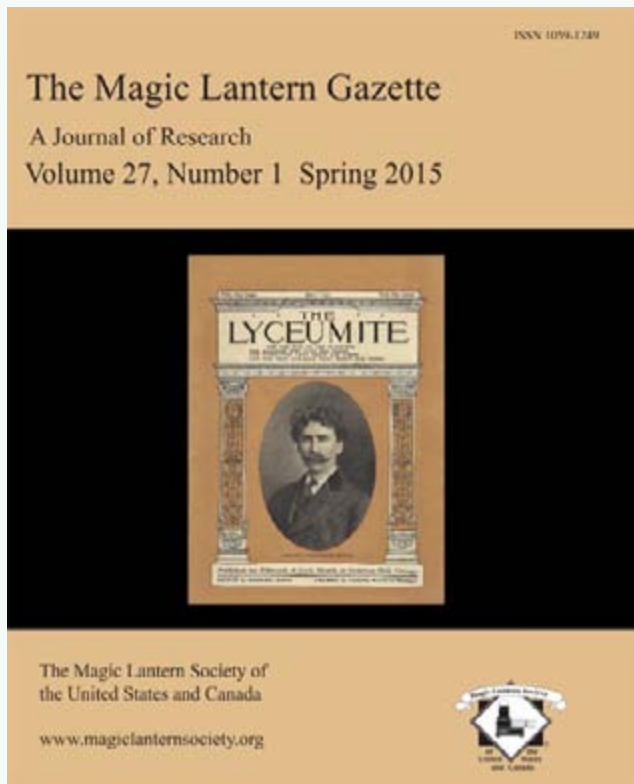


<https://archive.org/details/mlgvol-20no-03>

lantern" and "stereopticon." My purpose is not so much to describe the way that these instruments were used, but instead to examine how the use of these terms in popular literature changed over time.'

continued next page

What's in a Name? continued



<https://archive.org/details/mlgvol-27no-01>

From Terry Borton
The Magic Lantern Gazette
 Volume 27, Number 1 Spring 2015

The term “Magic Lantern” is used in quotes in the title of both this and the Chautauqua article because, although it is the phrase commonly employed today to refer to the projected entertainment and education of the period, and was often

used 100 years ago in the title of catalogs of lantern equipment and slides, it was never used by professional Chautauqua or Lyceum lecturers to refer to themselves or their work. Both groups thought of the “magic lantern show” as an amateur affair, often an entertainment of stories, songs and cartoons—primarily for children. And indeed that kind of magic lantern show comprised less than 10 percent of publically available lantern performances.’ The professionals wanted to separate themselves from such activities, even the amateur lantern lectures, and so usually referred to themselves as “Illustrated Lecturers,” or “stereopticon lecturers,” who presented more important and_ educational — subjects. (“Stereopticon” was the American term for an adult-sized professional lantern, usually a double

or “biunial” lantern, occasionally a “triple.”) Many Lyceum Illustrated Lecturers used other phrases or euphemisms to describe their work, like “life pictures” or “illuminated stories,” or they made no mention of the lantern but simply referred to their “beautifully colored slides.” But none of the Illustrated Lecturers ever referred to their “magic lantern,” or their “magic lantern slides.”

Illustrated Lecturers

Why Professional “Magic-Lantern Shows” Are So Little Known Today

One of the reasons that professional “magic-lantern shows” are largely ignored in modern academic and popular descriptions of American culture is because there was no such thing. The term “magic lantern” was never used for professional shows, and the descriptors that were used varied enormously. Unless one understands that all these different terms meant lantern shows, it is impossible to comprehend how ubiquitous and important the lantern phenomenon was. Here are the 41 different words or phrases that the Lyceum lecturers used to describe their shows. (See *Appendix A.*)

stereopticon show	illustrated lecture
stereopticon lecture	pictorial production
story of/in pictures	pictorially illustrated
pictorially told	picture drama
illustrated journey	illuminated views
illustrated	illustrated tours
best/new pictures	dissolving effects
lantern slides	dissolving views
beautiful lantern	50 views
colored views	with slides
with camera	with pictures
picture lecture	panoramic slides
fine illustrations	illustrated songs
projected views	travelogue
picture after picture	with photographs
(name), colorist	pictures from negatives
fine views	picture gallery
picture play stunning pictures	illus./illust.
illuminated tours	colored slides
a lecturer who illustrates	platformist

continued next page

What's in a Name? continued

From Larry Cederblom

Found this interesting report about names becoming part of the Motion Picture and Television Engineers with reference to the names Stereopticon and magic lantern.



books.google.com > books

Incorporation and Bylaws - Issues 18-20 - Page 260

Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers · 1924

FOUND INSIDE – PAGE 260

... **definition** for " scene . " MR . MANHEIMER : I think that could be better **defined** by the Camera Men's Society or the ... **magic lantern** . " I think we should **define** a single term or put in the word " **magic lantern** . " MR . PORTER .

Report of Standards and Nomenclature Committee 259

Discussion of Nomenclature

PRESIDENT JONES: Any comments on this **definition**?

MR. MANHEIMER: In studios they speak of spot lights as spots; I don't know whether this will cause confusion; the term is sort of idiomatic.

MR. GRIFFIN: I don't think that would interfere with us because the "spot" as we know it is purely as designated here. I move that it be accepted. (Motion seconded.) (Motion duly accepted.) *Stereopticon*. (Present and recommended new definitions read.)

DR. GAGE: I think if we say "stereopticon or" the word after "or" should be "**magic lantern**." I think we should define a single term or put in the word "**magic lantern**."

MR. PORTER: Stereopticon is the common term used here in America and optical **lantern** is that used on the other side, so that we thought they should both be put in.

(Motion passed to accept the **definition** as recommended by the Committee.)

continued next page

What's in a Name? continued

A recent reference about Magic Lantern



<https://americacomesalive.com/the-magic-lantern-early-form-of-slide-projector/>

The Magic Lantern

-Early Form of Slide Projector

Entrepreneurs & Inventors, Inventions / By Kate Kelly

The magic lantern is a very old invention that served as a primitive slide projector. As improvements were made, the magic lantern eventually produced moving pictures as well.

The device was created in Europe during the 1600s and introduced in America during

colonial times. The first documented use of a magic lantern in the colonies was in 1743 in Salem, Massachusetts.

The magic lantern went through various updates and improvements and remained in popular use up until



the early 1950s when it was replaced by the electric slide projector.

What a Magic Lantern Is

A magic lantern is a simple form of image projector that requires a light source, a concave mirror to help intensify and focus the light, and a lens to project a painted picture from a glass slide onto a wall or projection screen.

Early lighting sources for magic lanterns involved flame, so magic lanterns all had chimneys for the rising smoke.

Know of an unique or interesting name or definition of the Magic Lantern?



**Share
Your Findings**

Click on slide

Astronomy Picture of the Day

From Terry Borton

<https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap980506.html>

Discover the cosmos! Each day a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe is featured, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer.



May 6, 1998

Beijing Ancient Observatory

Credit: W. H. Jackson, U.S. Library of Congress, WTC Collection

Explanation: Did observatories exist before telescopes? One example that still stands today is the Beijing Ancient Observatory in China. Starting in the 1400s astronomers erected large instruments here to enable them to measure star and planet positions with increasing accuracy. Pre-telescopic observatories throughout the world date back to before recorded history, providing measurements that helped to determine when to plant crops, how to navigate ships, and when religious ceremonies should occur. The above hand-painted lantern slide was originally taken in 1895.

Moving Picture World (Jan-Jun 1910)

SLIDES

of Highest Quality

LATEST SONG SETS

Follow the Car Track.
 Take a Chance with Me.
 Keep Your Feet on the Soft Petal.
 When Love Comes Stealing Into Your Heart
 It's You Pal.
 Kerryanna
 I've Got the Time, I've Got the Place,
 But It's Hard to Find the Girl.
 All the World's in Love.
 'Twas Your Pleasing Smile.
 O That Mesmerizing Mendelssohn Tune.
 I Love My Wife, But O Her Family.
 My Love Is Greater Than the World.
 Every Girl I Get the Other Fellow Steals.
 Betsy Ross.
 Kitty Gray.
 The Wreck of the Good Ship Love.

High class slides made and colored to
 order from prints and negatives

Scott & Van Alton
 59 Pearl St., New York City

No. 110 A

35c Postage Paid

Send for Catalog of Announcement
 and Ad slides

The Neesho Slide Company
 100 S. Wood St., Neosho, Mo.



From John Roberts

johnmroberts@telus.net

Hello David. The four attachments show the 120 images in detail. The slides are 3 1/4 inches square. I have a fixed price of \$750 (U.S.) and the purchaser should arrange to have the collection picked up in Victoria, British Columbia. There is an 8 x 10 photographic print for each one of the slides, and the prints are in negative

120 Lantern Slides in Victoria, BC



image, so when photoshop is used, the image is reversed then enhanced.

The MV Coho leaves Port Angeles every day and the slides are at my residence just one kilometre from the ferry terminal in Victoria near the parliament buildings.

My phone number is 250-477-4127 and email JohnMRoberts@telus.net



Response From Member to Sell Bluing to Earn a Magic Lantern

From Kentwood Wells

Hi Camille

Merchants giving away toy magic lanterns as prizes or premiums was common in the late 19th century, as discussed in my 2010 Gazette article (see pp. 18-19)

MLGvol 22no 01 : Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada : Free
Download, Borrow, and Streaming :
Internet Archive

Fig. 36 shows one such ad for bluing but the magic lantern illustration is somewhat generic and does not necessarily show the actual appearance of the lantern being given away.

Kentwood D. Wells
Editor, The Magic Lantern Gazette
Research Supplement



<https://archive.org/details/mlgvol-22no-01/page/n1/mode/2up?view=theater>

Correction to December E-pub

From Sean Sharp
seansharp01@gmail.com

David, hello. The PayPal name for MLS is misspelled in the December electronic MLS magazine. I found that out when I sent my \$50 membership dues to that address; I cancelled that transaction and started over again, with the MLS name in my PayPal account from earlier this year, when I paid my 2023 membership dues.

Sean



Membership Renewal

Our membership remains at \$ 50 and runs the calendar year:

January 1 – December 31,
so now is the perfect time to send in
your 2024 renewal before the busy end
of the year holidays.

Checks or Money Orders, in US dollars
or Euros: Make out to "MLS of US and
Canada" and mail to **Ron Easterday,**
20382 12 th Ave NE, Poulsbo, WA,
USA, 98370.

PayPal: Send funds to **Secretary-**
Treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org.

Lantern Quits? Here's an Historical Solution

From Terry Borton

Wanderlust, by Reid Mitenbuler, a rollicking good tale about Artic explorer Peter Freuchen, reports a novel excuse for a malfunctioning lantern. Like many explorers, Freuchen supported himself by lecturing. The projector refused to work in the first lantern lecture that he and his partner gave. Mitenbuler reports, "The duo salvaged everything by launching into an impromptu comedy routine and explaining that all their pictures had been taken at night. Fortunately, the audience graciously went along." (p. 65)



From Lindsay Lambert
m.lindsaylambert@gmail.com

Dear David,

You asked me to let you know about my shows. They will be at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa on December 27th, 28th, 29th and January 5th and 6th, with two a day at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. I will be handing out squares of acrylic plastic and markers to children after each, so they can make their own slides for projection. Best,

Lindsay.

A Big Thank You to the following:

Terry Borton
David Evans
Lindsay Lambert
Karl Link
John Roberts
Brian Rogers
Sean Sharp
Loren Shultz

for contributing
to this months issue.